Claims

[c1] 1. A method for determining whether a particular name matches any names on a list of names, said particular name comprising one or more words, the method comprising:

generating codes characterizing the particular name by generating a code for each word of the particular name that is based at least in part on phonetic sounds of the word and on whether characters of the word match a pattern occurring in a proper name in a given natural language;

deriving an initial set of any matching names by comparing the codes of the particular name against corresponding codes for the list of names; and

deriving a final set of any matching names by comparing words of the particular name against words of names in the initial set.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of deriving a final set includes calculating a score based upon combinations of words of the particular name and words of names in the initial set.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of calculat-

ing a score is based, at least in part, on how well characters correlate between respective words.

[c4]   4. The method of claim 3, wherein said step of calculating a score includes determining whether a character at a certain position in a first word is at the certain position in a second word.

[c5]   5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of calculating a score includes determining whether a character at the certain position in the first word is at a different position in the second word.

[c6]   6. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of calculating a score is based, at least in part, upon number of matching characters in respective words.

[c7]   7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of calculating a score is based, at least in part, upon a position in a word at which a matching character is located.

[c8]   8. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of calculating a score includes calculating preliminary scores based on pairing each word of the particular name with each word of a name in the initial set.

[c9]   9. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of calculating a score further comprises calculating an average of

at least some of the preliminary scores.

[c10]   10. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of deriving a final set further comprises determining whether the score exceeds a threshold.

[c11]   11. The method of claim 10, wherein said threshold may be established by a user.

[c12]   12. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of deriving a final set is based, at least in part, on length of words of the particular name and words of names in the initial set.

[c13]   13. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of deriving an initial set includes determining if at least one code generated for the particular name matches a code for a name on the list of names.

[c14]   14. The method of claim 1, wherein the list of names comprises a watch list.

[c15]   15. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating codes includes parsing the particular name into words.

[c16]   16. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating codes includes removing superfluous characters.

[c17]   17. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of gener-

ating codes includes equating like-sounding characters.

[c18]   18. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating codes includes generating a single code value based on a plurality of characters.

[c19]   19. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating codes includes examining a character in a word in context of other characters in the word.

[c20]   20. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating codes includes generating a plurality of codes for a word having more than one common sound.

[c21]   21. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating codes includes evaluating a plurality of characters to identify particular patterns of characters.

[c22]   22. The method of claim 21, wherein said particular patterns comprise patterns of characters common in particular natural languages.

[c23]   23. A computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

[c24]   24. A downloadable set of processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

[c25]   25. A system for determining whether a particular name matches any names on a list of names, said particular name comprising one or more words, the system comprising:

a code module for generating codes characterizing the particular name by generating a code for each word of the particular name that is based at least in part on phonetic sounds of the word and on whether characters of the word match a pattern occurring in a proper name in a given natural language;

a pre-match module for deriving an initial set of any matching names by comparing the codes of the particular name against corresponding codes for the list of names; and

a score module for deriving a final set of any matching names by comparing words of the particular name against words of names in the initial set.

[c26]   26. The system of claim 25, wherein said score module calculates a score based upon combinations of words of the particular name and words of names in the initial set.

[c27]   27. The system of claim 26, wherein said score module calculates a score based, at least in part, on how well characters correlate between respective words.

[c28]   28. The system of claim 27, wherein said score module

determines whether a character at a certain position in a first word is at the certain position in a second word.

[c29] 29. The system of claim 28, wherein said score module determines whether a character at the certain position in the first word is at a different position in the second word.

[c30] 30. The system of claim 26, wherein said score module calculates a score based, at least in part, upon number of matching characters in respective words.

[c31] 31. The system of claim 30, wherein said score module calculates a score based, at least in part, upon a position in a word at which a matching character is located.

[c32] 32. The system of claim 26, wherein said score module calculates preliminary scores based on pairing each word of the particular name with each word of a name in the initial set.

[c33] 33. The system of claim 32, wherein said score module calculates a score by averaging at least some of the pre‑liminary scores.

[c34] 34. The system of claim 26, wherein said score module determines whether the score exceeds a threshold.

[c35] 35. The system of claim 34, wherein said threshold may

be established by a user.

[c36] 36. The system of claim 25, wherein said score module derives a final set based, at least in part, on length of words of the particular name and words of names in the initial set.

[c37] 37. The system of claim 25, wherein said pre—match module determines if at least one code generated for the particular name matches a code for a name on the list of names.

[c38] 38. The system of claim 25, wherein the list of names comprises a watch list.

[c39] 39. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module parses the particular name into words.

[c40] 40. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module removes superfluous characters.

[c41] 41. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module equates like—sounding characters.

[c42] 42. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module generates a single value for inclusion in a code based on a plurality of characters.

[c43] 43. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module

examines a character in a word in context of other characters in the word.

[c44] 44. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module generates a plurality of codes for a word having more than one common sound.

[c45] 45. The system of claim 25, wherein said code module evaluates a plurality of characters of a word to identify particular patterns of characters.

[c46] 46. The system of claim 45, wherein said particular patterns comprise patterns of characters common in particular natural languages.

[c47] 47. A method for assisting a user in determining whether a particular name matches any suspect name on a suspect list, said particular name having one or more words, the method comprising:
generating a code for each word of said particular name based at least in part on phonetic sound and on patterns of characters occurring in names in natural languages;
identifying a set of potentially matching names by comparing codes generated for said particular name with codes generated for suspect names on the suspect list;
for each suspect name in the set of potentially matching names, calculating a score based, at least in part, upon

correlation of characters between words of said particular name and words of the suspect name; and
if the score calculated for said particular name and the suspect name exceeds a threshold, reporting the match to the user.

[c48] 48. The method of claim 47, wherein the suspect list comprises a watch list.

[c49] 49. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes parsing said particular name into words.

[c50] 50. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes removing superfluous characters.

[c51] 51. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes equating like-sounding characters.

[c52] 52. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes generating a single code value based on a plurality of characters.

[c53] 53. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes examining a character in a word in context of other characters in the word.

[c54] 54. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes generating a plurality of codes for

a word having more than one common sound.

[c55] 55. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of generating a code includes evaluating a plurality of characters to identify particular patterns of characters.

[c56] 56. The method of claim 55, wherein said particular patterns comprise patterns of characters common in particular natural languages.

[c57] 57. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of calculating a score includes calculating preliminary scores based on pairing each word of said particular name with each word of the suspect name.

[c58] 58. The method of claim 57, wherein said step of calculating a score includes calculating an average of at least some of the preliminary scores.

[c59] 59. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of calculating a score includes comparing a character at a certain position in a first word with a character at the certain position in a second word.

[c60] 60. The method of claim 59, wherein said step of calculating a score further comprises determining whether the character at the certain position of the first word is at a different position in the second word.

[c61] 61. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of calculating a score is based, at least in part, upon number of matching characters in a first word and a second word.

[c62] 62. The method of claim 61, wherein said step of calculating a score is based, at least in part, upon a position in a word at which a matching character is located.

[c63] 63. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of calculating a score is based, at least in part, on length of words of said particular name and the suspect name.

[c64] 64. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of calculating a score is based, at least in part, on number of words of said particular name and the suspect name.

[c65] 65. The method of claim 47, wherein said step of reporting the match includes reporting the score calculated for said particular name and the suspect name.

[c66] 66. A computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 47.

[c67] 67. A downloadable set of processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 47.